

Opinion 2388 (Case 3655) – *Mesocrangon* Zarenkov, 1965: conserved by suppression of *Mesocrangon* Woodward, 1873 (Crustacea, Decapoda, CRANGONIDAE)

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

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Abstract. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature has used its plenary power to conserve the generic name *Mesocrangon* Zarenkov, 1965 by suppressing the unused senior homonym *Mesocrangon* Woodward, 1873. *Mesocrangon* Zarenkov, 1965 is placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Crustacea; Decapoda; CRANGONIDAE; *Mesocrangon*; *Mesocrangon intermedia*; *Mesocrangon atra*; crangonid decapods; Recent.

Ruling

The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature has hereby:

- (1) used its plenary power to suppress the generic name *Mesocrangon* Woodward, 1873 for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) placed the generic name *Mesocrangon* Zarenkov, 1965 (gender: feminine), type species by original designation *Crangon intermedia* Stimpson, 1860, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;
- (3) placed the specific name *intermedia* Stimpson, 1860, as published in the binomen *Crangon intermedia* (specific name of the type species by of *Mesocrangon* Zarenkov, 1965), on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;
- (4) placed the generic name *Mesocrangon* Woodward, 1873, as suppressed in (1) above, on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.

History of Case 3655

An application to conserve the generic name *Mesocrangon* Zarenkov, 1965 for a genus of boreal crangonid decapod crustaceans was received from Martyn E.Y. Low (*Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore, Block S6, Science Drive 2, #03–01, Singapore 117546, Republic of Singapore*) and Sammy De Grave (*Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PW, United Kingdom*). After correspondence the Case was published in BZN 71(3): 153–157 on 30 September 2014 (Low & De Grave, 2014). The title, abstract and keywords of the Case were published on the Commission's website. No comments on the Case were received.

The Case was sent for vote on 1 September 2016 (VP 1). A greater than two-thirds majority of Commissioners voted FOR the Case (22 For, 3 Against).

Decision of the Commission

At the close of the voting period on 1 December 2016 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 22: Alonso-Zarazaga, Ballerio, Bogutskaya, Bouchard, Dmitriev, Evenhuis, Grygier, Halliday, Harvey, Kottelat, Krell, Kullander, Lamas, Ng, Pape, Rheindt, Rosenberg, Welter-Schultes, Winston, Yanega, Zhang and Zhou.

Negative votes – 3: Aescht, Kojima and van Tol.

No votes were received from Bourgoïn and Pyle.

Voting FOR, Ng stated that this application was a logical cause of action for nomenclatural stability.

Voting AGAINST, Aescht commented that this application shows that it may need about 50 years to recognise a homonymy and not one of the “66 different authors using *Mesocrangon* Zarenkov, 1965 as a valid genus” seemingly consulted Neave’s *Nomenclator Zoologicus*, which was published 15 years before Zarenkov established his junior homonym. Article 23.9.3 was only mentioned in the Abstract by the applicants, but not in the text, where it would have been adequate in paragraph 9. Since Article 23.9.1.1 is not met, reference to Article 81 would also have been adequate in the Abstract and in paragraph 9. The gender of *Mesocrangon* / *Crangon* is treated as feminine in proposal (2) and as masculine in paragraph 4 and proposal (3), thus citing Opinion 334, where the gender of *Crangon* was given as feminine, would have been helpful. In voting Against, Aescht remarked that since Article 23.9.1.1 is violated and that it is not unusual for a fossil species to be collected only rarely, and that the whereabouts of the type material may be discovered, priority should take precedence over convenience for “modern” taxonomists seemingly disinterested in nomenclatural aspects. Also voting AGAINST, Kojima remarked that as the genus *Mesocrangon* Zarenkov, 1965 currently includes only three species which seem to have importance only in biology, the present issue should be treated according to the Code to avoid possible future nomenclatural confusion. Namely, a replacement name should have been given to *Mesocrangon* Zarenkov, 1965.

Original descriptions

The following are the original descriptions to the entries on either an Official List or an Index in the ruling given in the present Opinion:

intermedia, *Crangon*, Stimpson, 1860: 25.

Mesocrangon Woodward, 1873: 523.

Mesocrangon Zarenkov, 1965: 1762.

References

- Low, M.E.Y. & De Grave, S. 2014. Case 3655. *Mesocrangon* Zarenkov, 1965 (Crustacea, Decapoda, CRANGONIDAE): proposed conservation by suppression of *Mesocrangon* Woodward, 1873. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, **71**(3): 153–157.
- Stimpson, W. 1860. Prodromus descriptionis animalium evertibratorum, quae in Expeditione ad Oceanum Pacificum Septentrionalem, a Republica Federata missa, Cadwaladaro Ringgold et Johanne Rodgers Ducibus, observavit et descripsit. Pars VIII. Crustacea Macrura. *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, **12**: 22–47.
- Woodward, H. 1873. Seventh report of the committee appointed for the purpose of continuing researches in fossil Crustacea—consisting of Prof. P. Martin Duncan, M.B., Lond., F.R.S.; Henry Woodward, F.R.S.; and Robert Etheridge, F.R.S. *The Geological Magazine or, Monthly Journal of Geology: with which is incorporated 'The Geologist'*, **10**(113): 520–524.

Zarenkov, N.A. 1965. Revision of the genera *Crangon* Fabricius and *Sclerocrangon* G.O. Sars (Decapoda, Crustacea)]. *Zoologicheskii Zhurnal*, **44**(12): 1761–1775.